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## *EDITORIAL.*

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THE laudable efforts of the Russian geologists to make the proceedings of the seventh session of the International Geological Congress contribute materially to the advancement of the science along the lines of unification and reformation of classifications and nomenclatures met with but partial success. The number of papers presented that bore directly on these problems was not large and their magnitude was inconsiderable. Nevertheless it will appear in the future that the effort was much more fruitful than seemed at the time to be the case. The results in connection with the classification and nomenclature of stratified formations were more immediate and satisfactory than those relating to the same problems in petrography. Messrs. Frech and Bittner prepared papers that led to the formulation by Messrs. Karpinsky and Tschernyschew of definite propositions for the establishment of principles upon which may be based rules for the creation and use of stratigraphical terms. These were discussed by the congress and agreed to in part. A new committee was appointed to consider the principles of chronological classification of sedimentary formations. The committee consists of active members and of consulting members. The former are: Messrs. Barrois, Capellini, Hughes, Rénevier, Tietze, Tschernyschew, H. S. Williams, Zittel. Consulting members are: Choffat, Clark, Cortazar, Davy, Dawson, Déperet, Frech, Griesbach, Karpinsky, Kayser, de Lapparent, Martin, Mayer-Eymar, Nathorst, Nikitin, Stefanescu, De-Stefani, Taramelli, Uhlig, Van der Broeck, Walcott, Woodward.

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The results in connection with the problem of the reformation of petrographic nomenclature were most disappointing to the

Russian geologists, partly by reason of the fewness of the papers contributed and partly because of the resolution passed by the petrographers present that the time had not arrived for the determination of general principles for the classification and nomenclature of rocks. This, together with the absence of any report from the committee appointed at the sixth session of the congress prevented a discussion of principles and appeared to be a direct reproof of the geologists who had suggested the discussion. It should not be so considered. It was in fact an indication of the wide divergence of opinion on the subject of classification and nomenclature among petrologists and of the consciousness of the rapid changes that are taking place in our knowledge of the elements involved, which would render hasty deliberation fruitless. But there is no question that had a report been presented by the committee it would have elicited a most vigorous discussion. It is to be remarked also that an effort on the part of the petrologists to replace the former committee by a more active one was voted down by the help of those geologists who appeared most anxious to have the problem advanced. The undertaking is of such a serious nature that few cared to offer new suggestions without very careful consideration. Nevertheless the agitation will undoubtedly prove beneficial, and as great advances could be recognized to have taken place since the meeting of the sixth session at Zürich, still greater ones may be expected by the time of the Paris meeting, when it is hoped that the committee will present a report which may not only form the basis for discussion but a foundation for permanent reforms. J. P. I.